

## THE HISTORIC MARTIN FRANKLIN HANLEY HOUSE



### DID YOU KNOW?

Martin Hanley purchased 100.6 acres of land from William Wyatt for \$750. Today about 1 acre of that original farmland survives as Hanley Park. On that park stands the oldest surviving home in the city of Clayton – the Historic Hanley House.

The Hanley family owned horses named Billy, Charlie and Foo; they even had a cow named Bessie.

Martin Hanley was a blacksmith and sold farming equipment as far west as Boonville, Missouri.

Cyrene Hanley made butter, jam and hickory shirts to be sold at market. Cyrene also spoke French.

Together, Martin and Cyrene had 11 children, 10 of whom survived to adulthood.

The Hanley family was filled with adventurous pioneers: Cyrene's Uncle, the Reverend Thomas Musick, travelled west from North Carolina and was the first to preach the Baptist faith west of the Mississippi. After 1850, Martin Hanley ventured west to take part in the California Gold Rush. Martin's son, Henry Walton Hanley, travelled to Leadville, Colorado for the Silver Rush of 1879.

Martin Hanley built the Hanley Road. In addition to hiring daily labor for about one dollar a day per laborer, Martin on several occasions had the need to purchase "powder & fuzes" to assist in clearing the road.

During the Civil War, Union soldiers encamped on the Hanley property and required that the family serve them breakfast. Family lore tells us that the Hanley daughters "entertained" their visitors with Southern hymns sung at the family piano.

Martin's wife, Cyrene, together with their neighbor, Ralph Clayton, donated 104 acres to St. Louis County to be subdivided into 300 lots which were offered for sale at auction at the Hanley residence in 1876. This is how Clayton became the County Seat following the "Great Divorce" between the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County.

As the first Justice of the Peace for St. Louis County, Martin Hanley ordered the delivery of 30 hogs and their increase to plaintiff Charles Farris in November 1877. The hogs were "unlawfully taken" and "wrongfully detained" in St. Louis County by John Scott and Edmond Dowling.